list, a telephone exchange with capacity of 1000 lines is under installation and is expected to be commissioned by October 31, 2001.

(c) and (d) No person has registered for telephone connection from Village Gayadatta Mishra.

Modernisation of Postal Services

2483. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve and expand speed post services by including towns and cities not directly connected through Air Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have drawn any strategy to modernise postal system in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds earmarked for this purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) National Speed Post Centres have already been set up in many cities/towns not directly connected through Air services. For such centres, Speed Post is sent through Rail and Road network. Speed Post is a premium product and is run on commercial considerations. Expansion of this network is an on-going process depending on market situation, assessment of the need, the anticipated revenue and transport network.

(c) and (d) the Ninth Five Year Plan of the Department of Posts (1997—2002) seeks to expand, in a phased manner, the scope and coverage of the programmes of modernisation of postal services including specific agency functions through induction of technology initiated during the Eighth Plan period. The focus of the programme of modernisation is to improve the quality of postal services as well as to increase revenue generation. Human Resource Development through appropriate training for skill upgradation and streamlining of management functions are also priority areas identified to support the modernisation programmes. Scheme-wise details of major modernisation programmes under the Ninth Five Year Plan are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(e) The funds allocated for various modernisation programmes under the Annual Plan 2001-2002 is Rs. 92 crores.

Statement

Major Modernisation Programmes under the Ninth Plan

Sl.No.	Plan Activities	Targets
1.	Installation of computer based multi-purpose counter machines	5000
2.	Setting up of Extended Satellite Money Order Centres (ESMOs)	1450
3.	Upgradation of the existing Satellite based Money Order Systems	21
4.	Installation of new high speed Very Small Aperture Terminal Stations	150
5.	Supply of Stamp cancelling machines	100
6.	Supply of Electronic franking machines	500
7.	Supply of Tying and bundling machines	30
8.	Modernisation of post offices	505
9.	Computerisation of the remaining Postal Stores Depots and networking of all Postal Stock Depots with the Postal Directorate	15
10.	Computer training to officials	12000
11.	Modernisation of Sorting Mail Offices	120
12.	Setting up of Automated Mail Processing Centres (AMPCs)	2
13.	Computerisation of Transit Mail Offices	25
14.	Computerisation of Head Record Offices	20
15.	Modernisation of registration work in Sorting Mail Offices	22
16.	Computerisation of Speed Post Centres	50
17.	Modernisation of Business offices for Speed Post	5
18.	Provision of mass mailing, inserting and sealing equipment for Centres	4
19.	Computerisation of Rual Postal Life Insurance work in Postal Regions	32
20.	Computerisation of Philatelic Bureaux	252
21.	Computerisation of Customer Care Centres	228